

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-08

INFO OCT-01 PRS-01 ISO-00 SIG-02 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 IO-13 EB-07 MC-02

ACDA-10 NEA-10 AID-05 COME-00 TRSE-00 ARA-10 EA-09

EUR-12 OMB-01 CU-04 DHA-02 SCA-01 /138 R

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO ALL AFRICAN DIPLOMATIC POSTS IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 213368

DAR ES SALAAM PASS ROGERS, SCHAUFELLE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:PFOR, US

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING (AFRICAN ISSUES)
AUGUST 26.

1. DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN ROBERT FUNSETH, AT PRESS BRIEFING
AUGUST 26, QUERIED ABOUT SEVERAL AFRICA-RELATED ISSUES,
INCLUDING BALTIMORE SUN REPORT CHARGING THAT ISRAEL IS
ACTING AS QUOTE AMERICAN SURROGATE UNQUOTE IN SELLING
HIGHLY SOPHISTICATED WEAPONS TO SOUTH AFRICA. QUOTING
WELL-PLACED SOURCES IN JERUSALEM, SUN DISPATCH SAID ISRAEL
IS ACTING FOR U.S. QUOTE WHICH IS POLITICALLY UNABLE TO
DO SO ITSELF. UNQUOTE. DISPATCH SAID QUOTE JERUSALEM
HAS ALREADY RECEIVED VIRTUALLY BLANKET CLEARANCE, ACCORD-
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ING TO THESE SOURCES, TO SELL JOHANNESBURG WHATEVER IT
REQUIRES REGARDLESS OF NORMAL U.S. RESTRICTIONS PROHIBITING
TRANSFER OF WEAPONS SYSTEMS. UNQUOTE.

2. FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS OF PRESS BRIEFING (BEGIN TEXT):
QUESTION: THERE'S STORY IN BALTIMORE SUN TODAY FROM ISRAEL
THAT SAYS THAT U.S. -- QUOTES SOURCES IN ISRAEL AS SAYING
THAT U.S. HAD GIVEN ISRAEL VIRTUALLY BLANKET APPROVAL TO
SEND TO SOUTH AFRICA WHATEVER U.S. ARMS ARE WANTED. IS
THAT TRUE?

ANSWER: I HAD NOT SEEN THAT REPORT, BUT THAT STORY IS
ABSOLUTELY FALSE. WE HAVE ARMS EMBARGO ON SOUTH AFRICA.

AND I THINK IT IS WIDELY KNOWN THIS EMBARGO EXTENDS TO
REQUESTS FOR THIRD-COUNTRY SALES OF U.S.-ORIGIN EQUIPMENT
OR TECHNOLOGY TO SOUTH AFRICA AND, THEREFORE, WE DO NOT
APPROVE SUCH TRANSFERS.

3. Q. WELL, IT DOES SEEM TO ME, IN LOOKING AT STORY,
THAT STORY MAY POSSIBLY DEAL WITH ISRAELI SALE TO
SOUTH AFRICA OF AMERICAN COMPONENTS ON WHICH IT SAYS THE
UNITED STATES HAS WAIVED RESTRICTIONS. NOW, UNITED
STATES DOES HAVE RESTRICTIONS ON PARTS WHICH ARE MANU-
FACTURED OR PARTIALLY MANUFACTURED IN ISRAEL OR SUPPLIED
BY UNITED STATES; AND HAS UNITED STATES GRANTED ISRAEL
PERMISSION TO TRANSFER OR SELL THIS TYPE OF MATERIAL
TO SOUTH AFRICA?

A. LET ME REPHRASE YOUR QUESTION. HAS ISRAEL ASKED
PERMISSION TO SELL? AND ANSWER IS NO. TO GO BACK,
THERE IS ALSO REQUIREMENT BY ANY THIRD COUNTRY TO
REQUEST OUR CONSENT ON COMPONENT PARTS. SAME APPLIES
AS TO MY EARLIER STATEMENT ON ARMS EMBARGO.

4. Q. BOB, YOU WOULD NOT EXTEND THIS TO SALE
OF ISRAELI-MANUFACTURED WEAPONS, WOULD YOU?

A. NO. I AM TALKING ABOUT SALE OF U.S. WEAPONS
OR THINGS THAT WOULD CONTAIN COMPONENT PARTS PROVIDED
BY UNITED STATES.

5. Q. I UNDERSTAND.

A. IT IS JUST NOT ISRAEL BUT APPLIES TO ANY COUNTRY
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REQUIRING OUR PERMISSION ON ANY ARMS TRANSFER.

6. Q. I UNDERSTAND THAT, BUT MY QUESTION IS
WHETHER U.S. GOVERNMENT WOULD HAVE ANY OBJECTION
TO ISRAEL SELLING WEAPONS THAT ARE PRODUCED AND
MANUFACTURED IN ISRAEL TO SOUTH AFRICA.

A. I THINK THAT IS QUESTION FOR ISRAEL TO DECIDE.
OUR POSITION ON ARMS EMBARGO ON SOUTH AFRICA IS WELL
KNOWN.

7. Q. WELL, I MEAN -- YES; CLEARLY, YOU'RE RIGHT.
IT'S A QUESTION FOR ISRAEL TO DECIDE. BUT SINCE
ISRAELI ARMS WOULD BE FREED BY PURCHASE OF SIMI-

LAR AMERICAN WEAPONS, THERE IS CERTAIN OVERLAP THERE;
AND IT'S WITH THAT IN MIND THAT I'M ASKING QUESTION.
A. I JUST HAVE TO LIMIT MY RESPONSE TO MY EARLIER
ANSWER.

8. Q. WHEN DID THE ARMS EMBARGO TO SOUTH AFRICA START?
I'M SORRY. 1963?

A. I BELIEVE IT WAS OVER TEN YEARS AGO. I AM NOT SURE
OF THE DATE. LET ME CHECK ON THE PRECISE DATE.

9. Q. DOES UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT HAVE ANY PRECISE
EVIDENCE THAT ISRAELIS ARE VIOLATING TRANSFER PROVISIONS
OF VARIOUS CONTRACTS THAT WE HAVE WITH ISRAELIS?
A. NO.

10. Q. HAS ISRAEL EVER DISCUSSED WITH U.S. OFFICIALS
ITS ARMS-SALES POLICY TOWARDS SOUTH AFRICA?
A. NOT TO MY KNOWLEDGE, NO.

11. Q. DO YOU KNOW WHAT LIMITATIONS ARE -- WHAT
SPECIFIC PENALTY, IF ANYTHING, IS PROVIDED; WHAT AGREEMENT
SAYS ABOUT TRANSFER OF COMPONENT PARTS?
A. I THINK LARGER QUESTION IS WHAT DO WE DO IF COUNTRY
VIOLATES PROVISIONS UNDER WHICH THEY RECEIVE ARMS. OB-
VIOUSLY, DECISION WOULD HAVE TO BE MADE ON NATURE OF ANY
VIOLATION -- BUT SOMETHING TO WHICH WE ARE VERY STRONGLY
OPPOSED TO THAT. IN ANY EVENT IT IS HYPOTHETICAL BECAUSE
ISRAEL HAS NOT ASKED.
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12. Q. WHAT ARE PROVISIONS UNDER WHICH THE ISRAELIS
RECEIVE ARMS AND TECHNOLOGICAL INSTRUCTION FROM UNITED
STATES? THAT IS, WHAT ARE TRANSFER PROVISIONS RELATING
TO THAT?
A. THE PROVISIONS UNDER WHICH ANY COUNTRY RECEIVES ARMS
OR TECHNOLOGY IS FOR THEIR OWN DEFENSE. THAT IS BASIC
LANGUAGE OF LAW.
NOW, LANGUAGE ON RESTRICTIONS MAY VARY FROM CONTRACT
TO CONTRACT, SO ONE WOULD HAVE TO HAVE SPECIFIC CASE
IN ORDER TO ANSWER.

13. Q. ON ANOTHER SUBJECT: ZAMBIAN PRESIDENT KENNETH
KAUNDA IS BEING QUOTED TODAY AS ATTACKING WESTERN POWERS
FOR DOUBLE DEALING IN SOUTHERN AFRICAN SITUATION AND
SAYING THAT NEGOTIATING EFFORTS HAVE FAILED AND THERE
IS NO PROSPECT NOW FOR ANYTHING BUT FIGHTING.
THIS COMES ON HEELS OF HIS MEETING WITH MESSRS.
ROGERS AND SCHAUFLE.
IS THAT KIND OF REACTION EVIDENT IN YOUR REPORTS?
A. I WAS NOT AWARE OF THIS KAUNDA STATEMENT UNTIL YOU
MENTIONED IT TO ME BEFORE BRIEFING, MURRAY, SO I REALLY
AM NOT ABLE TO COMMENT ON STATEMENT BY MR. KAUNDA. BUT

CERTAINLY OUR EFFORTS FOR REACHING NEGOTIATED AND PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT IN SOUTHERN AFRICA WILL CONTINUE.

14. Q. BOB, I WOULD LIKE TO ASK IF YOU CAN GIVE US SOME DETAILS OF WHAT ARE KNOWN FACTS IN REGARD TO ENTRY OF RHODESIAN TENNIS PLAYERS PARTICIPATING IN CHAMPIONSHIPS IN PHILADELPHIA.

BEFORE -- EXCUSE ME, BEFORE YOU GET TO THAT -- I DIDN'T QUITE FINISH UP HERE.

YOU HAVEN'T ANNOUNCED PREVIOUSLY THAT ROGERS AND SCHAUFLELE HAD STOPPED IN LONDON ON THEIR WAY TO AFRICA. NOW IS THEIR SCHEDULE ALTERED IN ANY OTHER WAY?

A. WE ANNOUNCED THREE COUNTRIES. THEY STOPPED OVER IN LONDON ENROUTE -- ZAMBIA, ZAIRE AND TANZANIA -- AND WE INDICATED THAT THERE WOULD BE OTHER STOPS ADDED TO THAT.

BUT ALL I HAVE, AS OF TODAY, ARE THOSE THREE COUNTRIES.

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15. Q. DO YOU HAVE ANY PRELIMINARY REPORT BACK FROM THEM?

A. THEY REPORT DAILY.

16. Q. WHAT IS THE STATUS? IS THAT LOOKING LIKE A LIKELY VISIT WITH VORSTER, OR --

A. NO DECISION HAS BEEN MADE ON THE SECOND MEETING WITH VORSTER.

17. Q. WELL, COULD YOU CHARACTERIZE THEIR DISPATCHES AS POINTING TOWARDS OR AWAY FROM SUCH MEETING?

A. NO, I AM NOT ABLE TO PROVIDE YOU THAT INFORMATION. NOW ON TENNIS PLAYERS -- I DO NOT HAVE ANY FACTS ON TENNIS PLAYERS.

WHEN WE LEARNED OF THEIR PRESENCE IN TOURNAMENT IN PHILADELPHIA, WE ASKED IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE TO INVESTIGATE HOW THEY HAPPENED TO BE IN THIS COUNTRY AND TO DETERMINE THEIR CITIZENSHIP STATUS. AND I DO NOT HAVE ANYTHING MORE THAN THAT. I HAVE NO RESULTS OF THAT.

18. Q. WELL, WILL THEY BE PERMITTED TO GO ON TO THESE OTHER CITIES?

A. WE WILL HAVE TO DETERMINE THEIR CITIZENSHIP STATUS AND WHETHER THEIR ENTRY WAS CONTRARY TO OUR REGULATIONS.

19. Q. WHAT ARE YOUR REGULATIONS?

A. FOR RHODESIAN RESIDENTS, OUR REGULATIONS HAVE BEEN THAT RHODESIAN RESIDENTS ARE NOT PERMITTED ENTRY INTO UNITED STATES EXCEPT FOR COMPELLING HUMANITARIAN OR EDUCATIONAL REASONS.

BUT AS I SAY, THIS INVESTIGATION IS TO DETERMINE

THE CITIZENSHIP STATUS OF THESE FOUR PEOPLE.

20. Q. IF THEY WERE BEARING BRITISH PASSPORTS, WOULD THEY BE ALLOWED IN?

A. NO, THEY WOULD BE EXCLUDED.

Q. THAT WAS QUOTE HUMANITARIAN AND --? UNQUOTE

A. QUOTE EDUCATIONAL. UNQUOTE. QUOTE COMPELLING EDUCATIONAL AND HUMANITARIAN REASONS. UNQUOTE.

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21. Q. AND IF THEY ARE CARRYING SOUTH AFRICAN PASSPORTS, WOULD THEY BE ALLOWED IN?

A. WE HAVE TO DETERMINE WHAT IS THEIR CITIZENSHIP STATUS AND WHETHER THEY HAVE VALID TRAVEL DOCUMENT. NOW IF THEY HAD PRESENTED THEMSELVES OR SAID THAT REASON FOR THEIR VISIT WAS TO COMPETE IN TENNIS TOURNAMENT AS RHODESIAN TEAM -- IF OUR REGULATIONS HAD BEEN FOLLOWED, AND WE HAVE NO INDICATION THAT THEY WERE NOT FOLLOWED -- THEY WOULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO ENTER. THERE IS AN EXECUTIVE ORDER, WHICH WAS ISSUED IN CONJUNCTION WITH UN SANCTIONS PROGRAM, WHICH, AMONG OTHER THINGS, EXCLUDES RHODESIAN TEAMS FROM COMPETING -- EXCLUDES PERSONS WHO WISH TO COME TO THE UNITED STATES TO COMPETE ON RHODESIAN TEAMS.

BUT WE DO NOT KNOW WHERE THEY RECEIVED THEIR VISAS, OR AT LEAST I HAVE NOT BEEN TOLD.

22. Q. BEFORE WE GO OFF THE RHODESIAN MATTER: WERE THERE PROTESTS? DID YOU RECEIVE PROTESTS ABOUT THIS? AND IF SO, FROM WHOM?

A. I AM NOT AWARE THAT GOVERNMENT HAS RECEIVED ANY PROTESTS. I THINK PROTESTS WERE DIRECTED AGAINST SPONSORS OF TOURNAMENT.

23. Q. I AM LEFT WITH NUMBER OF QUESTIONS HERE ABOUT RHODESIAN SITUATION: SUPPOSE YOU DETERMINE, AS STORIES SAY, THAT IN FACT THEY DID COME IN ON SOUTH AFRICAN AND OTHER PASSPORTS -- DUTCH -- STORY REFERS TO SOUTH AFRICAN AND DUTCH PASSPORTS -- CAN THEY BE BARRED?

A. I WOULD REALLY PREFER TO SEE RESULTS OF INS INVESTIGATION BEFORE I SPECULATE ON WHAT ACTION MIGHT BE TAKEN.

24. Q. DIDN'T YOU SAY THAT THOUGH THEY HAD BRITISH PASSPORTS, THEY WOULD NOT BE ADMITTED?

A. IF PEOPLE ARE IDENTIFIED AS QUOTE RHODESIAN RESIDENTS UNQUOTE -- AND MANY RHODESIAN RESIDENTS HAVE BRITISH PASSPORTS -- THEY WOULD NOT BE ADMITTED.

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25. Q. WHAT ABOUT THE UNITED STATES NATIONALS RESIDING IN RHODESIA?

A. WHAT ABOUT THEM?

Q. WELL, WOULD THEY BE DENIED ADMISSION TO UNITED STATES? SOMEBODY CARRYING UNITED STATES PASSPORT AND RESIDING IN RHODESIA?

A. WE ARE NOT REFERRING TO THAT. WE ARE REFERRING TO QUOTE RHODESIAN RESIDENTS. UNQUOTE. NOT FOREIGN NATIONALS RESIDENT IN RHODESIA.

26. Q. WELL, OBVIOUSLY -- I UNDERSTOOD THAT IT WAS AMERICAN POSITION THAT RHODESIA'S 1965 DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE WAS ILLEGAL AND THAT THEREFORE RHODESIA REMAINS TECHNICALLY COLONY OF BRITAIN. AND THAT THEREFORE, RESIDENTS OF RHODESIA ARE BRITISH.

A. THAT IS RIGHT.

27. Q. THEN WHY WOULDN'T YOU HONOR BRITISH PASSPORT?

A. IT IS NOT QUESTION OF HONORING BRITISH PASSPORT. IT IS OUR POLICY NOT TO ADMIT RHODESIAN RESIDENTS INTO UNITED STATES EXCEPT FOR REASONS WHICH I HAVE STATED.

28. Q. WELL, DOES THIS APPLY TO UNITED STATES NATIONALS RESIDENT IN -- .

A. NO, I SAID IT DID NOT.

29. Q. DOES THAT POLICY APPLY TO OTHER BRITISH COLONISTS.

A. IT APPLIES TO RHODESIA.

30. Q. WHAT ABOUT OTHER COLONIES OF BRITAIN?

A. THIS IS TRICTLY IN CONTEXT OF UN SANCTIONS PROGRAM AGAINST RHODESIA, AND ITS UNILATERAL DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE.

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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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